

Weekly Column for March 2, 2006

It is wonderful to see that as March rolls around, Old Man Winter finally jumped in and gave us a nice reminder of where we live.

The Mardi Gras festival this past Tuesday was a wonderful time, though it certainly had many people no longer questioning why the event would be held in New Orleans. With temperatures dipping well below the freezing mark, the air may have been cold, but the revelers partying on the streets throughout the evening were quite warm in spirit.

Like so many events outside of the summer months, Mother Nature has a lot to say when it comes to the event becoming a success. And despite her best efforts, I believe the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mardi Gras was a very nice success.

This morning I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in "Read Across America Day" at two separate schools in the City. Both School 16 and Carroll Hill welcomed me inside the classroom this morning to read to the students. If you check out the local paper tomorrow I am sure you will catch a glimpse of me in a ridiculous hat. This is the third year in a row I have participated, and each year I enjoy it more and more.

Next Tuesday I have another event that is always an interesting time with four of the other Mayor's in the area. The annual Meet the Mayor's breakfast takes place every March, and is sponsored by the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Usually well attended, the event gives each of the local mayors (Troy, Cohoes, Green Island, Watervliet, and Rensselaer) a unique opportunity to talk about things happening in the community.

Last week we also unveiled a Zero Tolerance hotline for the Code Enforcement department. During my State of the City speech I announced we would concentrate on improving Code Enforcement in the City through a zero tolerance approach. We have had several successes in the first month, and look forward to continuing this crackdown.

If you have a complaint to give to the Code Enforcement feel free to call the Zero Tolerance hotline at 270-4404, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. One of our code enforcement officers will get back to you as soon as possible.

Have a terrific weekend, and enjoy the cold weather.

Hairy J Tutunjian (with a nod to a local columnist this morning)  
Mayor of Troy